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Directive Concerning the Preservation of
State Secrets by Working Personnel
of All Levels of Government.

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DIRECTIVE CONCERNING THE PRESERVATION OF STATE SECRETS BY WORKING PERSONNEL OF ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

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The Chinese people just now are vigorously carrying on a struggle against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism, and are devoting themselves to a vast and difficult work of reconstruction, while enemies domestic and foreign are using every possible method to spy on and destroy us. In order that our nation may not suffer destruction or damage, work personnel of all levels of government have the responsibility of guarding state secrets. Therefore, in addition to publishing the fixed national security laws, this directive is specially issued:

I. The chief categories of State secrets to be preserved are as follows:

1. Matters concerning military diplomatic, financial and economic aspects of the nation which ought not to be made public.
2. Various national projects which have not been decided upon and those which while decided upon have not yet been made public.
3. Matters which various levels of government recognize should be kept secret.

II. In order to preserve State secrets, each level of government should give attention to the below-named matters:

1. Documentary and telegraphic material concerned with secrets should be in care of a confidential secretary, or person appointed by the chief, said secretary or person taking full responsibility.

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2. The number of persons reading secret documents, telegrams, and materials should be strictly limited.

3. Secret documents sent out by each office should be marked with the word Secret; all documents bearing this mark should be directly delivered to the key personnel who are responsible for action; other persons may not open the envelope.

4. In establishing a system for secrecy of conferences, there must be careful scrutiny of those who attend the conference. Documents distributed should be numbered, so that when necessary they can at any time be recalled.

5. The employing and indoctrination of work personnel should be done with care. Although the sponsors are responsible, department chiefs should constantly examine the work personnel. If unreliable elements appear, they should be promptly dealt with. If personnel in charge of secret matters let secrets leak, the chiefs should be responsible.

III. In the preserving of secrecy by individuals among work personnel of all levels of government, the following matters must be given attention:

1. The work personnel of each office who undertake recording, copying, printing, stamping with seal, etc., should give special attention to good habits of preserving secrecy, and may not allow leakage.

2. About matters which are not within one's sphere of responsibility there is no need to ask questions.

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3. About matters which others should not know, one should not speak.

4. There should be mutual supervision to prevent leakage of secrets. If it appears that others are leaking secrets, one should, on his own initiative, seek to repair the damage and quickly report to his superiors.

5. As to documents carried on the person, these should be carefully guarded, lest there be leakage or loss.

IV. Work personnel of all levels of government who cause any leakage of State secrets as listed below, causing the nation and people or some part thereof to suffer destruction or loss, shall be punished lightly or heavily as the case may be:

1. Those who sell secrets to domestic or foreign enemies.

2. Those who deliberately reveal State secrets to domestic or foreign enemies.

3. Those traitorous merchants who sell secret materials or secret news to domestic or foreign enemies.

4. Those who utilize secret news to speculate and make profits.

5. Those who through carelessness reveal secrets or lose secret materials.

V. If it appears that work personnel are not good at preserving State secrets, whenever there is leaking of national secrets all [guilty] levels of government should be dealt with as follows, lightly or heavily as the case may be:

1. Education by criticism and executive discipline.

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2. Sending to the courts for legal disposition. Serious cases should be sentenced as disloyal to the fatherland and counter-revolutionary.

Each office, when dealing as above, should consider the circumstances and report to his superior offices and to coordinate people's supervisory offices.

VI. Each level of government should strictly observe the provisions of this directive, instructing its cadres, and in their work inspecting to see if these are genuinely carried out.

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